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LETCHWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



HEALTH
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Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1954

including the
REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Letchworth
Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman,

At the request of the Ministry of Health, and in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Orders, the following report is submitted. It is the thirty-sixth annual report on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of your district.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1954

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

(also Divisional M.O., Herts C.C.)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

ARTHUR JUMP, F.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

ALWYNE FIRTH, M.S.I.A. (resigned December)

KENNETH A. BENNETT, M.S.I.A.

STANLEY PAPE, M.S.I.A.

GEORGE W. WHITE, M.S.I.A. (from February)

CLERICAL ASSISTANTS :

MISS V. A. PAMMENTER

R. E. GRAY

DISINFECTOR AND RODENT OPERATIVE :

L. CARR

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 4,897 acres

Inhabited Houses. There were 6,413 occupied dwellings according to the rate books at 31st December.

Population. The Registrar-General estimates the civilian population for mid year 1954 to be 21,550, an increase of 290 persons.

Rateable Value. The rateable value is estimated to be £180,036 and the product of the penny rate is £748.

Vital Statistics

Births

		Total	Males	Females
Live births :	Legitimate ...	299	155	144
	Illegitimate ...	2	1	1
Totals ...		301	156	145

the birth rate is 14.0, which compares with that of 15.2 for England and Wales. Last year the rate was 15.0.

		Total	Males	Females
Still births :	Legitimate ...	6	3	3
	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
		6	3	3

The still birth rate per thousand live and still births is 19.5 and compares with the rate of 24.0 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Total 177, Males 90, Females 87.

Twenty-three less than last year. The crude death rate is 8.2 and the corrected death rate is 8.5 per thousand civilian population compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

Death from puerperal causes. None and the maternal mortality rate is therefore nil.

Infant Mortality

		Under four weeks	Total under one year
Legitimate	...	4	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—
		—	—
Totals	...	4	5
		—	—

The rate per thousand live births is 16.6 and compares with the rate of 25.5 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were :

Ref. No.						Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	1
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	4	2
11	„ „ lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	9	1
12	„ „ breast	...	...	...	...	—	5
13	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	7	11
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	9	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	16	6
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	—	3
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	9	22
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	5	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	3
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	2
25	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
26	Ulcer, stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	—
28	Nephritis, and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	4	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	12	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	4
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1
						—	—
	Totals all causes	...	...	...	...	90	87

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year; there were no deaths from diphtheria, measles or whooping cough.

Tables I, II and III give comparative vital statistics for the years 1950 to 1954 inclusive. Death rates and birth rates are based on the Registrar-General's estimate of the population.

TABLE I

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cancer					
No. of deaths:					
Males	15	18	22	20	20
Females	22	16	18	17	20
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Puerperal Causes					
No. of deaths	—	—	—	—	—
Death rate, 1,000 births ...	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis					
No. of cases notified:					
Males	36	50	105	75	68
Females	10	25	27	28	22
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.33*	0.48*	1.0*	0.66*	0.54*
No. of deaths:					
Males	3	—	—	—	2
Females	3	—	2	1	1
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.29	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.14
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis					
No. of cases notified:					
Males	1	3	2	2	3
Females	2	2	1	4	4
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.14	0.24	0.0*	0.1*	0.09*
No. of deaths:					
Males	—	—	—	—	—
Females	1	—	—	—	—
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Based on number of local new cases (1954—pulmonary 11, non-pulmonary 2).

TABLE II
URBAN DISTRICT OF LETCHWORTH

	1921	1931	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	census	census		census			
Number of inhabited houses December 31	2,708	3,897	5,777	5,887	6,045	6,257	6,413
Population—local estimate	10,832	14,808	20,800	20,750	21,036	21,273	21,804
Number of live births	219	217	296	337	304	319	301
Birth rate (based on local estimate of population)	20.2	14.6	14.2	16.2	14.4	15.0	13.8
Number of infant deaths	12	9	7	8	10	7	5
Infant mortality	55	41.4	14	24	32.9	22	16.6
Maternal mortality	—	17.7	—	—	—	—	—
Number of deaths	77	105	179	200	190	200	177
Death rate (local estimate of population):							
Crude	7.1	7	8.6	9.6	9.0	9.4	8.1
Corrected			9.4	10.4	9.8	9.8	8.4
Population—Registrar-General's estimate	10,302	14,454	20,730	census 20,321	21,040	21,260	21,550
Birth rate (based on Registrar-General's estimate of population):							
Crude	21.3	15.0	14.3	16.3	14.4	15.0	14.0
Corrected			13.5	15.4	13.6	15.0	14.0
Death rate (based on Registrar-General's estimate of population):							
Crude	7.5	7.2	8.6	9.7	9.0	9.4	8.2
Corrected			9.4	10.5	9.8	9.8	8.5

TABLE III

ENGLAND AND WALES

	1921	1931	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	census	census		census			
Birth rate ...	22.4	15.8	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.1
Death rate ...	12.1	12.3	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3
Infant mortality	83	66	30	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5

One hundred and sixty smaller towns (25,000—50,000)

England and Wales

Birth rate ...	22.7	15.6	16.7	16.7	15.5	15.7	15.2
Death rate ...	—	11.3	11.6	12.5	11.2	12.2	11.3
Infant mortality	84	62	29.4	27.6	25.8	30.8	25.5

LETCHWORTH URBAN

Birth rate (crude)	21.3	15.0	14.3	16.3	14.4	15.0	14.0
(corrected)			13.5	15.4	13.6	15.0	14.0
Death rate (crude)	7.5	7.8	8.6	9.7	9.0	9.4	8.2
(corrected)			9.4	10.5	9.8	9.8	8.5
Infant mortality	55	41	14	24	32.9	22.0	16.6

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(i) *Staff.* See list at front of Report.

For details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors reference should be made to the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Other services.*

Treatment Centres and Clinics. The Urban Council is responsible for the treatment of scabies and a clinic continues to be held as often as necessary at the Health Office in Gernon Road. Arrangements have been made with the Baldock Urban, Hitchin Urban and Hitchin Rural Councils for treatment of cases from their districts.

Section 47 National Assistance Act 1948. National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951. One case was dealt with during the year.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water.* Extensive works to the Fuller bore-hole were in progress during the year.

In response to circular 170/47, issued by the Ministry of Health, I submit the following information :

- (i) (a) The supply has been satisfactory in quality.
(b) The supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (ii) The supply is sampled bacteriologically every two weeks, the samples being taken systematically at the pumping stations and from various points in the area of supply. The results are uniformly satisfactory. Chemical analyses are taken every four weeks and show little variation.
- (iii) There is no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) The supply is subjected to chlorination.
- (v) With the exception of five cottages at Radwell in the extreme north-east, and two houses and a petrol filling station and cafe at Jack's Hill to the south-west, all the properties in the Urban District are provided with a direct piped supply of water from the Company's mains. There are no standpipes. The supplies from the private wells are kept under observation and are sampled.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.* The extensions and improvements to the sewage works have been completed and the enlarged works are now in use.

2. *Rivers and Streams.* No change.

3. (i) *Closet accommodation.* No change.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.* The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. The house refuse is disposed of by "controlled tipping" at the Arlesey clay pits in the Biggleswade rural district.

(iii), (iv), (v) and (viii). These matters are fully dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(vii) *Swimming baths and pools.* (a) Public. The open-air swimming pool in the Norton Common continues to be well patronized, and there were 57,721 attendances during the year. A series of samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory, and the staff are again to be congratulated on maintaining a consistently high hygienic standard.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. <i>Inspections</i> for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)		Premises				
		M/c line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	14	30	3	—
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	152	104	15	—
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	16	8	—	—
	... Total ...	—	182	142	18	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

		Section 110			Section 111		
Nature of Work		No. of out-workers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of Prosecutions	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making, etc.	...	13	—	—	—	—	—
apparel) Cleaning and Washing	...	14	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen	...	15	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	...	16	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	44	—	—	—	—	—

2.—Cases in which *defects* were found

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) ...	12	14	13	1	2	—
Total ...		18	17	1	2	—

SECTION D. HOUSING

During 1954 the following premises were erected and occupied :

Council Schemes

Houses	146
Flats	24

Other Persons

Houses and Bungalows	83
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Total ...	253
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Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	434
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	638
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	195
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	253
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	41

Action under Statutory powers during the years:

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil

(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936	nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	nil

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	13
--	----

Housing Act 1936—Overcrowding:

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	1
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	10
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	22
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :	
	(i) Number of cases	nil
	(ii) Number of families concerned	nil
	(iii) Number of persons	nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat, Milk and other Foods.

Full details of the work carried out will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. There is now only

one manufacturer of ice cream and the sample results proved satisfactory.

Clean Food Campaigns.

There was no special campaign. Food shops and food preparing places are regularly inspected and opportunity is then taken to give advice on the clean handling of food to the personnel concerned.

(1) The types of food premises in Letchworth are as follows : Butchers, 17; cafes, refreshment houses and snack bars, 18; confectioners, 25; dairies, 6; fish shops, 3; green-grocers and fruiterers, 10; grocers and provision merchants, 27; food warehouses, 3; bakehouses, 5; mineral water manufacturer, 1; potato crisp manufacturer, 1; margarine manufacturer, 1; dehydrated food manufacturer, 1; bacon factory and meat product manufacturer, 1; school canteens, 11; factory canteens (serving snacks) 34, (main meals) 23.

(2) Premises registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act : Sale and manufacture of ice cream, 40; manufacture of sausages and meat products (preserved food), 20; registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, dairies 6; retailers with premises outside the district 3.

(3) See report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(4) No new educational activity.

(5) Salvaged if possible and treated in proper digester plant; otherwise burnt or destroyed.

(6) Special examinations. Carried out as necessary.

Food Poisoning

(a) Outbreaks due to identified agents :
Total outbreaks, nil; total cases, nil.

(b) Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :
Total outbreaks, nil; total cases, nil.

(c) Single cases :
Agent identified, nil; unknown cause, one; total, one.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1954 totals of notified cases of infectious diseases (after correction) were :—Measles 2, whooping cough 8, scarlet fever 12, acute pneumonia 4, food poisoning 1, acute poliomyelitis 4 (paralytic 2, non-paralytic 2) and erysipelas 5.

Both *Measles* and *Whooping Cough* are seen to have been remarkably infrequent during the year. The offer of immunisation of infants against whooping cough was instituted in local Welfare Centres in the latter half of the year.

Scarlet Fever cases were again relatively few, scattered both in time and location. The type of illness continues almost uniformly mild and confined in incidence to infant and junior school ages, only one notified case being over 10 years. Practitioners are frequently in a quandary whether to notify when confronted by a child with a scarlet rash unaccompanied by any fever.

Acute *pneumonia* notifications were confined to the first quarter of the year.

The one case of *Food Poisoning* notified, in a young child, on investigation appeared to be the result of eating laburnum seeds.

Acute *Poliomyelitis* appeared locally in the late Autumn coeval with a number of cases in Mid-Beds. Notified cases in North Herts. were confined to Letchworth but occurred in several areas of the town over some six weeks. No direct contact spread could be found on investigation but reports of mild febrile illness in families connected strongly suggested a fairly wide existence of infection. One further child case notified from Hitchin in early January (1955) had close contacts only with Letchworth. One case was unfortunately fatal from bulbar paralysis. All reasonable recommended measures to improve hygiene and avoid close or crowded child contact were applied over a reasonable period of time.

Diphtheria was again absent from the district for yet another year; despite its continued absence acceptance by parents of the offer of protection of children by immunisation continues good.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR

Age Periods	New Cases		Non-		Deaths		Non-	
	Respiratory		Respiratory		Respiratory		Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	2(1)	—	—	2(1)	—	—	—	—
15—25	25(24)	13(12)	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	32(29)	8(8)	1(1)	1(1)	—	—	—	—
35—45	5(3)	—	1(1)	1	1	—	—	—
45—55	2(2)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	68(59)	22(20)	3(3)	4(2)	2	1	—	—
Deaths allocated by Registrar-General after final transfers					2	1	—	—

Footnote: Figures of new cases include inward transfers from other areas, the numbers of such being shown additionally in brackets.

The actual number of new respiratory cases notified in local residents was 11 (9 males and 2 females) against figures of 14 and 22 in the two preceeding years; of these only 3 (2 males and 1 female) were in the dangerous 15–24 age period. Two local cases of non-respiratory disease were also notified.

It is seen that the local register contains a very large number of cases among workers undergoing rehabilitation training at the local Ministry of Labour Training Centre. By their nature such cases fall almost all into the “quiescent” classification; their names have to be transferred for dispensary observation and follow-up.

The local deaths from Tuberculosis (respiratory) during the year number three (males 2, female 1).

CONCLUSION

All local mortality rates are again favourable, though the local birth rate is again somewhat lower than would be expected for a population of under-the-average age distribution.

I would again acknowledge every help from the chief officers of your Council and particularly my indebtedness to your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Arthur Jump, for his unfailing helpfulness and local knowledge. The completion of this report is again made easy by his most valuable assistance.

I am, gentlemen, V. R. WALKER,

May 1955.

District Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I submit my twenty-fourth Annual Report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. Mr. George White commenced duties in February and the department was fully manned until the 29th October when Mr. Stanley Pape, Additional Sanitary Inspector and Mr. Lawrence Carr, Rodent Operative, were injured in a road accident which occurred during the performance of their duties. Both received serious injuries and neither was available for duty during the remainder of the year. Mr. Alwyne Firth, Senior Additional Inspector resigned in December, having obtained an appointment with the Tadcaster Rural District Council. Mr. Firth had been an efficient member of the staff since February 1951.

Housing. A special investigation into dampness in Council houses was made in July and August and a report was submitted to the Housing Committee. The investigation revealed that much of the trouble was due to condensation and in some cases penetrating dampness, and in others rising dampness. The Housing Manager carried out certain experimental remedial works in a number of cases with a view to ascertaining the best methods of dealing with the particular causes. It is hoped that the results of these experiments will enable effective remedial measures to be undertaken.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, came into operation on the 30th August and thirteen applications for improvement grants were submitted. All these were granted and in four instances works were commenced before the end of the year. No applications for certificates of disrepair were received although a number of enquiries were dealt with.

At the 31st December there were only three known cases of overcrowding and four of bad living conditions. This shows a great improvement over the conditions that existed in the town, as shown by the special survey undertaken during 1945, 1946 and 1947.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. As from the 3rd of July the control of slaughterhouses, slaughtering, and meat supplies ceased and the abattoir was released from requisitioning. Taking the year as a whole the slaughtering of animals continued to increase, no less than 154,000 pigs or an average of 3,000 pigs a week being slaughtered. The total slaughter-

ing units equal 1,625 per week as compared with a normal consumption for Letchworth of 55 units.

Cysticercus Bovis. 147 cases were found during the year, giving an incidence rate of 2.85%.

In 80 cases lesions were found in the head and were confined to the head in 60 cases.

In 81 cases lesions were found in the heart and were confined to that organ in 63 instances.

In 11 cases lesions were found in the diaphragm and were confined to that part in 4 cases.

In 7 cases there were 2 lesions in the head and in 2 cases 3 lesions.

In 11 cases there were 2 lesions in the heart and in 1 case 3 lesions and in 2 cases 4 lesions.

In 2 cases there were 2 lesions in the diaphragm.

In 16 cases lesions were found in both heart and head.

In 4 cases lesions were found in both heart and diaphragm.

In 1 case lesions were found in head, heart and diaphragm.

In connection with the Food Byelaws, the supervisory work continued as did the policy of giving advice to food handlers during routine visits.

Letchworth became a specified area on the 1st April and only Tuberculin Tested milk can be sold raw, the only other milks that can be sold are pasteurised and sterilised. During the year two of the three pasteurisation establishments ceased to operate and there is now only one licensed pasteurisation plant in Letchworth.

Very little ice cream is manufactured in the district, a small quantity being made at one establishment. The sample results proved satisfactory throughout the year.

In August the Letchworth Council made application to the Ministry of Health to act as a Food and Drugs Authority, the population at the last published census having exceeded 20,000.

General Sanitation, Nuisances, etc. One item worthy of report is that the by-product plant at the Abattoir ceased to deal with all animal by-products and only edible fats and greases are now produced. This has enabled the plant to be operated with little odour emission and complaints of smells from adjacent factory premises have ceased.

The Council caravan site in Orchard Way continued to be kept under supervision and conditions were found at all times to be satisfactory. A number of other caravans are licensed under the County Council Act and these sites were also well kept. On the other hand much time was spent in dealing with nomad caravan dwellers using old highways and waste land as camping sites. The Council authorised the purchase of a strip of land between the old Icknield Way highway and the railway from British Railways, with a view to preventing the use of this land by caravan dwellers.

Atmospheric Pollution. This again received a great deal of attention and seventy-five official smoke observations were made. As a result of representations, two manufacturers installed larger boiler installations. This has materially assisted in preventing pollution. Efforts were also made to improve conditions at other installations and a certain amount of progress had been made by the end of the year.

Rodent Control. Letchworth residents are very rat conscious and we are quickly informed of the presence of even a stray rat. With few exceptions the infestations found were minor in character and quickly dealt with. All the Council's undertakings receive regular attention.

Infectious Disease. There were the usual normal investigations and although only one case of Food Poisoning was notified a considerable number of enquiries were made.

Swimming Bath and Paddling Pool. Samples were taken systematically during the season and all the results were satisfactory.

National Assistance Act. It was necessary to take action in one case under Section 47 and in one case under Section 50. These cases are not easy to deal with and many difficulties have to be overcome.

Factories and Workplaces. Once again a considerable amount of work was carried out during the year and generally the factories were found to be well kept. Special attention was paid to the canteens.

Shops Acts. The Council took over the administration of the Shops Acts from the County Council and a certain amount of exploratory work was carried out towards the end of the year.

STATISTICAL RECORDS

1st January—31st December, 1954

GENERAL (under Public Health and Housing Acts):

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	239
Houses reinspected under Public Health Acts	146
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	195
Houses reinspected under Housing Acts	58
Houses visited re defective dustbins	8
Housing Survey: Form A primary	3
" " " A secondary	3
" " " B primary	31
" " " B secondary	—
Visits re number of occupants	15
Improvement Grant Applications	15
Visits	21
Rents Act Certificate Applications	2
Visits	5
Movable dwellings inspected	96
Movable dwelling sites inspected	207
Nuisances investigated	167
Systematic investigations of district	102
investigations re water supply	12
" re watercourses and ditches	40
" re sewers	91
" re industrial effluvia	40
" re industrial effluents	9
" re pigeons	1
" re poultry keeping	10
Visits and inspections of entertaining premises	5
" " " of swimming baths	21
" " " of paddling pool	8
" " " of waterworks	2
" " " of burial grounds	—
Smoke observations	75
Drains—Smoke tested	30
Drains—water tested	23
Drains—colour tested	12

Visits to works outstanding and in progress	...	...	165
Visits to stables	...	...	2
Visits to piggeries	...	...	20
Visits to refuse tips	...	...	112
Visits re rodent infestation	...	...	1010
Rat investigations in sewers	...	...	91
Visits to public conveniences	...	...	17
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	298
Samples of effluent submitted for analysis	...	...	6
" " water submitted for analysis	...	...	22
" " swimming bath water	...	...	19
" " paddling pool water	...	...	4
Food control	...	...	30
Food waste collection and salvage	...	...	—
Civil Defence	...	...	2
Hostels	...	...	2

(c) *Infestations*

	Council Houses	Other Houses	Visits
Bugs	3	8	11
Fleas	2	3	9
Lice	—	1	1
Beetles and cockroaches	—	9	11
Flies	6	4	12
Mosquitoes	—	—	—
Wasps' nests	31	72	569
Other pests	92	32	143

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

Meat depot	65	Food preparing	
Butchers' shops	119	places	17
Butchers' vans	19	Dairy vehicles	61
Fish shops	40	Cowsheds	6
Other food shops	126	Ice-cream vendors	51
Cafes	20	Hawkers of other	
Bakehouses	8	foods	6
Dairies	39	Canteens	36
		Hotels	4

(b) *Carcasses examined*

(1) At Abattoir :

Cows	...	...	954	Calves	...	...	554
Heifers	...	...	1,891	Sheep	...	...	9,719
Bulls	...	...	30	Pigs	...	...	149,310
Bullocks	...	...	2,278	Goats	...	...	—

(2) At shops, other premises and vans :

Beef Qs.				Calves	...	...	2
(i) English	...	44		Sheep	...	...	41
(ii) Imported	...	15		Pigs	...	...	18
Boneless mutton		—		Poultry	...	...	—

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food*

(1) At Abattoir :

23 cow carcasses	7 calves' heads
19 other beasts carcasses	9 .. plucks
55 forequarters English beef	2 .. lungs
14 hindquarters English beef	1 .. heart
3 sides English beef	5 .. livers
2,212 lbs. English beef	18 .. kidneys
449 beasts' heads	6 .. mesenteries
1,407 .. lungs	7 .. spleens
229 .. hearts	7 .. guts
937 .. livers	18 .. other organs
176 .. kidneys	167 pig carcasses
435 .. mesenteries	83 forequarters English pork
172 .. spleens	13 hindquarters English pork
386 .. guts	7,005 lbs. English pork
1,321 .. other organs	3,873 pigs' heads
8 calf carcasses	1,949 .. plucks
— forequarters English veal	23,623 .. lungs
— lbs. English veal	2,257 .. hearts
	6,694 .. livers
	2,961 .. kidneys

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food—(cont.)*

3,075 pigs' mesenteries	221 sheep's lungs
2,818 „ spleens	1 „ heart
3,172 „ guts	281 „ livers
8 sheep's carcasses	24 „ kidneys
3 forequarters English	4 „ mesenteries
mutton	8 „ spleens
— hindquarters English	19 „ guts
mutton	161 „ other organs
69½ lbs. English mutton	
9 sheep's heads	Total weight :
33 „ plucks	236.043 lbs.

(2) At wholesale depot, shops and vans :

107 cans corned beef	15 lbs. bacon
60 cans corned pork	1 box mackerel
3 cans brawn	1 case dogfish
1 can tongue	109 cans fish
145 cans meat products	2 cases herrings
156 lbs. English beef	218 cans milk
563 lbs. Imported beef	19 cans cream
3½ hindquarters beef	394 cans vegetables
2 beasts' livers	544 cans fruit
17 lbs. English mutton	10 cases prunes
26 lbs. English pork	2 lbs. jam
4 sides Danish pork	8 lbs. preserve
589 lbs. pigs' mesenteries	53 lbs. marzipan
908 lbs. caul fats	5 lbs. rice
288 lbs. trimmings	79 lbs. cheese
356 lbs. ham	

(d) *Slaughter of animals*

Regular notices of slaughter received ...	1
Notices of occasional or emergency slaughter received	68

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED (EXCLUDING SHOPS)

	Cattle excluding cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	
						Pork	Baconers
Number killed	4199	954	454	9719	69204	85122	
Number inspected	4199	954	454	9719	69204	85122	

All Diseases except Tuberculosis

(1) Whole carcasses condemned	5	6	7	8	92	59	
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	879	392	8	587	7347	8042	
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	21.0	41.7	3.3	6.0	10.7	9.5	

Tuberculosis only

(1) Whole carcasses condemned	14	17	1	—	7	9	
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	328	273	—	—	1802	1939	
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.5	30.4	0.2	—	2.6	2.3	

Cow udder infection. As during previous years an examination was made of the udders of all cows slaughtered, and the results are as follows :

	Ten Years	
	1945/54	1954
Number of cows slaughtered ...	11956	954
Tubercular type lesions found in udder and/or supramammary lymphatic glands	399 = 3.3 %	7 = 0.7 %
Other udder infection	2204 = 19.2 %	57 = 6.0 %
<i>Total</i> udder infection ...	2603 = 22.7 %	64 = 6.7 %
Tubercular cows having mammary lesions	10.9 % (404 in 3709 cases)	6.6 % (12 in 182 cases)

Applications for licences to slaughter animals	...	22
Number of licences granted to slaughtermen	...	22
Amount of fees received	... ..	£1/3/0

(e) *Milk Supply*

Three farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, two being licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk and one for the production of Accredited milk. There are nine distributors of milk, six having premises within the urban district. Nine are licensed to retail Tuberculin Tested milk, one retailer is licensed to pasteurize milk.

Summary of results of milk samples taken :

	Sterilised milk	Tuberculin Tested milk	Accredited milk
Number taken	2	2	—
Methylene blue test satisfied ...	2	2	—
“ “ “ failed ...	—	—	—
B. Coli Absent in 1/100 ml. ...	—	—	—
Present	—	—	—

	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurized) milk	Pasteurized milk	Ordinary milk
Number taken	50	51	—
Methylene blue test—			
Number submitted ...	39	42	—
Satisfied	39	41	—
Failed	—	1	—
B. Coli—number submitted ...	—	—	—
Absent in 1/100 ml. ...	—	—	—
Present	—	—	—
Phosphatase Test—			
Number submitted ...	48	49	—
Passed	46	49	—
Failed	2	—	—

Milk Acidity Tests

Number carried out at office	...	...	...	...	1
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	—

Special Samples

One taken.

Ice Cream

Methylene Blue Test—

Number submitted	...	...	26	
Classified as Grade I	...	...	23	Satisfactory
Classified as Grade II	...	...	3	
Classified as Grade III	...	...	—	Unsatisfactory
Classified as Grade IV	...	...	—

B. Coli examination—

Number submitted	...	...	6
Absent in 1/10 gram.	...	...	6
Present in 1/10 gram.	...	...	—

Bacterial count—

Number submitted	...	...	6
Highest count	...	...	920000
Lowest count	...	...	600
Average count	...	...	155667

Chemical examination—

Number submitted	...	...	6	
			% Fat w/w	% Solids not Fat w/w
Highest	...	...	10.85	—
Lowest	4.77	—
Average	8.66	—

Ingredient samples—

Number submitted	6	Satisfactory
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Lollies—

Number submitted	1	
Classified as Grade III	1	Unsatisfactory

FOOD SAMPLES

Meat (1 can) : No pathogenic organisms.

(f) *Adulteration*

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this area, the officer being G. F. Hart, Esq., and all complaints of adulterated food are referred to him. Several cases were dealt with, and a most helpful liaison was maintained.

FOOD BYELAWS

Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

General	...	...	...	...	...	49
Re Health Clinic cases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Specimens taken to laboratory	...	...	...	...	...	11
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	4
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nurseries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of school notices sent	...	...	...	...	...	6

(b) *Disinfection*

General cases	...	...	...	...	45	rooms
Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	33	
Schoolrooms	...	...	...	...	—
Hospital Wards	...	...	...	...	—
Vehicles	...	...	...	...	—
Library books	...	...	...	...	14	
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	3	

Disposal of the Dead

National Assistance Act, Section 50—

No. of cases	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. of visits	...	...	...	...	...	—

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

			No. on Register	Inspections	Notices
Mechanical factories	...	...	152	104	14
Non-mechanical factories	...	...	30	38	4
Workplaces	...	...	32	21	2
Outworkers	...	...	44	1	—

Defects found and remedied

				Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	2	2
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	1	1
Other nuisances	...	...	...	7	7
Sanitary accommodation—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	1	1
Other offences	...	...	...	14	13
Matters referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	1	—
Matters referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	2	—

PETROLEUM ACTS

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	9
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	2
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	2
Number of licences granted—				
(a) Petroleum spirit and products	...	...	...	43
(b) Carbide of calcium	...	...	...	3

Amount of fees received—£30/15/0.

SHOPS ACTS

Number of shops on Register	...	...	...	218
Visits and inspections	...	...	...	107
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	4
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	4

GAME LICENCES

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	3
Number of licences granted	...	...	...	...	5
Amount of fees received—£1/5/0.					

PET ANIMALS ACT

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	1
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	—
Number of licences granted	...	...	...	...	1
Amount of fees received—10/-.					

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	2
Number of licences in force	...	...	...	1

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS—BYELAWS

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	33
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	—

OFFICES

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	5
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	—
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	—

These statistical records illustrate the scope of the work carried out during the year and I thank all members of the staff for their help and keen interest.

ARTHUR JUMP,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Health Office.
Gernon Road,
Letchworth.

June 1955.